



GAMBIT

#24

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Salvatore R. ZK
Townsend

NICIEZA
PAQUETTE
GREEN



FINALLY... NEW SON!

REMY LeBEAU HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE OUTSIDER. ORPHANED AT BIRTH, HE WAS ADOPTED BY THE LEGENDARY THIEVES GUILD OF NEW ORLEANS WHO OFTEN SHUNNED HIM BECAUSE OF HIS STRANGE BURNING EYES. EVENTUALLY, HE REALIZED HE IS A MUTANT -- GIFTED AT BIRTH WITH THE ABILITY TO CHARGE INANIMATE OBJECTS WITH EXPLOSIVELY RELEASED BIOKINETIC ENERGY! HE'S CHARMING. HE'S DEADLY. STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE MOST MYSTERIOUS X-MAN OF ALL!

GAMBIT

SUNRISE SUNSET

I
APOLOGIZE
FOR THE
DISCOMFORT,
REMY
LeBEAU...

DON'
MENTION
IT.

PUKED MY GUTS OUT.
RIPPED FROM NEW
ORLEANS TO
WHEREVER I AM NOW.

I'VE FELT THIS WAY
BEFORE, WHEN I
TRAVELED THROUGH
TIME FROM 1891 TO
HOME.

SO TH' QUESTION
IS, AM I SOMEWHEN
ELSE...

AFTER THE EVENTS
OF GAMBIT #14.
-- Mike

THE END OF THE BEGINNING BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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...OR DID NEW SUN JUST TAKE ME SOMEWHERE ELSE?

CONFUSED? DON'T BE, GAMBIT. YOU ARE ON MY WORLD -- MY EARTH...

...OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT?

NEW SUN IS ME, OR, RATHER, TH' REMY LEBEAU OF AN ALTERNATE EARTH.

'CEPT HE DOESN' HAVE MY NAME, MY EXPERIENCES, MY ACCENT... OR MY CUTE BUNS.

THEN AGAIN, I DON' HAVE THE SAME LEVEL OF CONTROL OVER TH' MUTANT BIOKINETIC CHARGING POWERS WE SHARE. HE'S MUCH MORE POWERFUL.

NEW SUN CAME TO OUR EARTH AFTER HIS WAS -- WELL, CHAR-BROILED, APPARENTLY... AN' HE SAID HE NEEDED MY HELP IN SAVIN' OUR PLANET!

TURNED OUT HE MEANT IT NEEDED TO BE SAVED FROM ME! OR HIM, OR MAYBE BOTH OF US. WHAT DO I KNOW?

SECONDS AGO, I FELT A TUG AS IF SOMEONE WERE DRAGGIN' EVERY CELL IN MY BODY THROUGH A CHEESE GRATER.

AND HERE I WAS. LOOKS LIKE NEW SUN FOUND HIS WAY BACK TO HIS WORLD BY USIN' MY FRIEND, QUIET BILL --

-- A MUTANT WHO CAN SEE THROUGH PORTALS TO ALTERNATE REALITIES.

BILL LOOKS OUT OF IT, LIKE HE'S BEEN FROZEN IN SPACE AN' TIME.

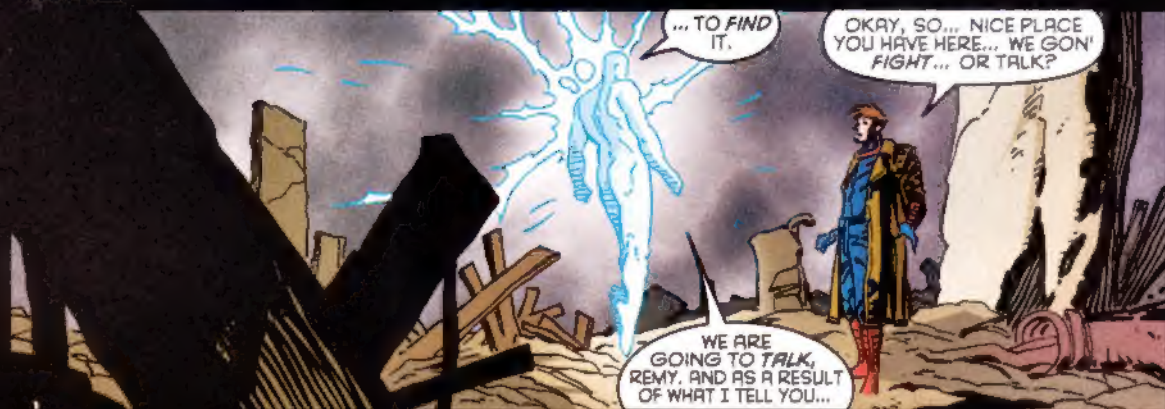
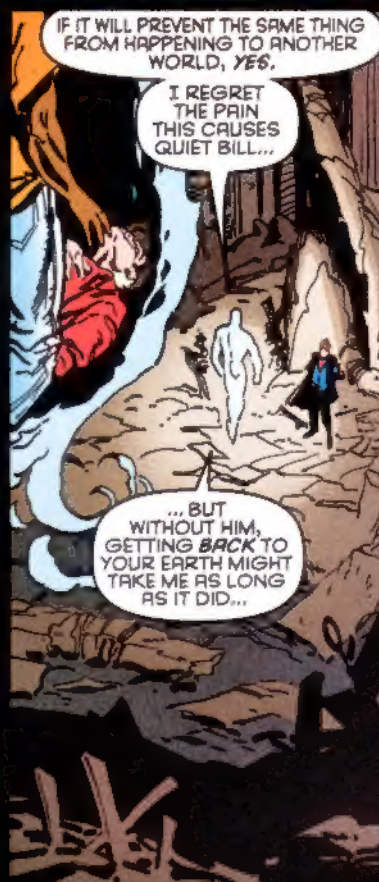
ANOTHER OF NEW SUN'S TRICKS THAT I CAN'T MANAGE.

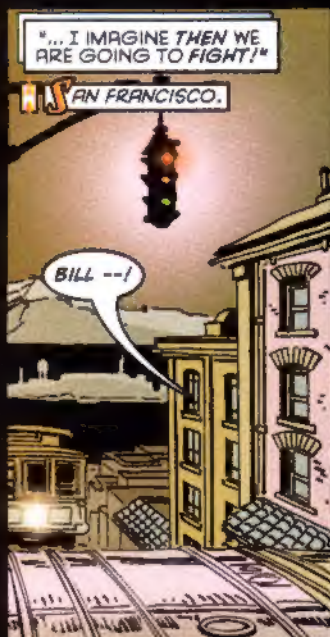
HE'S SO MUCH... MORE THAN I AM -- SO MUCH MORE THAN I EVER WANTED TO BE --

-- WHICH LEADS ME TO THE QUESTION: IF HE WANTED ME DEAD, WHY DIDN'T HE JUST KILL ME?

WHY HAS HE GONE T'ALL THIS TROUBLE?

AN' THEN JUS' LIKE THAT -- ALMOST AS IF I COULD READ HIS MIND -- I KNOW...

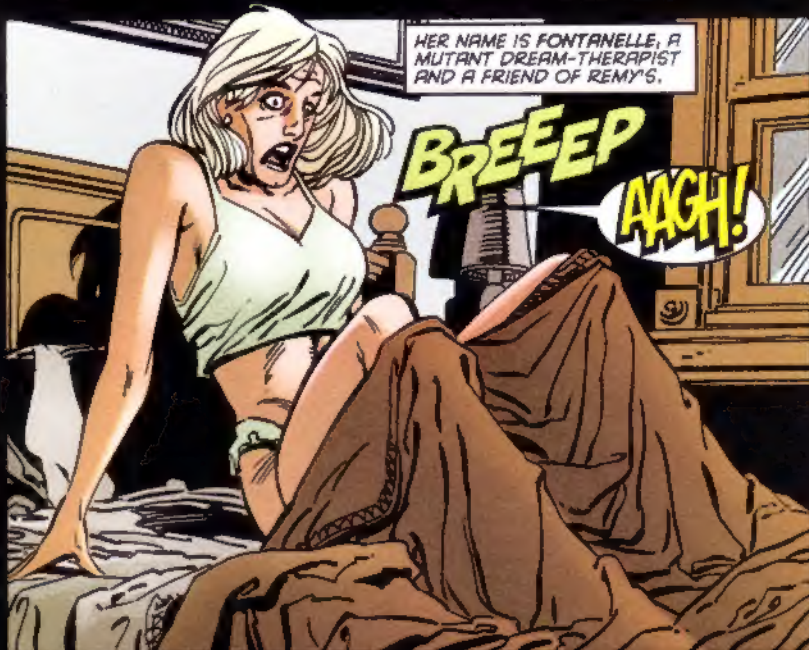




"... I IMAGINE THEN WE ARE GOING TO FIGHT!"

SAN FRANCISCO.

BILL --!



HER NAME IS FONTANELLE, A MUTANT DREAM-THERAPIST AND A FRIEND OF REMY'S.

BREEEP

AAGH!



GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS KIND OF THING...

BREEEP

ALL RIGHT, WAKE, I'M COMING... SHOULD'VE KNOWN WHEN I LINKED YOU INTO QUIET BILL'S DREAM THAT YOU'D GET ALL SCHIZO...



JACOB GAVIN JR., THE COURIER, IS A MUTANT SHAPE-SHIFTER FROZEN IN THE TEMPLATE FORM OF A FEMALE...

... I CAN USE MY FATHER'S CORPORATE JET AND BE AT REMY'S SAFEHOUSE IN LESS THAN THREE HOURS.

THAT'S WHERE QUIET BILL IS STAYING.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I LEFT MY FATHER'S CORPORATE JET IN MY OTHER LEATHER PANTS...



... BUT WHAT I CAN DO IS FALL BACK TO SLEEP AND STAY IN CONTACT WITH BILL UNTIL YOU GET THERE.

OKAY, THAT'S A PLAN. NOT ONE I LIKE, BUT LET'S ROLL WITH IT.

AND REMIND ME AT EXACTLY WHAT POINT WE BECAME GOOD ENOUGH FRIENDS WITH REMY FOR US TO WALK INTO A DEATH-TRAP!

EVEN THROUGH HIS FUZZY HALO, I CAN TELL SUNNY IS IN THE MOOD TO TALK. TO CONFESS, ACTUALLY...

I WAS BORN IN ALPHA-1, THIS WORLD'S FOREMOST **MUTANT RESEARCH AND GENETIC PLANNING FACILITY.**

A MUCH LARGER SCALE -- AND MORE CONTROLLED -- VERSION OF YOUR WORLD'S **BLACK WOMB.**

I NEVER KNEW MY PARENTS.

THEY HAD BEEN PAID FOR THE **POTENTIAL INHERENT** IN THE JOINING OF THEIR GENETIC MATERIAL --

-- NOT FOR THE TROUBLE OF **RAISING** A CHILD.


I WAS PREPARED FROM **BIRTH** IN THE USE AND EXPLOITATION OF MY POWERS.

BY THE TIME **ADOLESCENCE** CAME, TRIGGERING MY MUTANT ABILITIES --


-- I WAS WELL ENOUGH VERSED IN THEIR USE --

-- THAT I **INCINERATED** ALPHA-1 AND LEFT TO FIND MY WAY IN THE WORLD.





"I WANDERED A FEW YEARS,
LEARNING HOW TO ADJUST
TO THE COMPLEX MORALITY
OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION."




"FOR A TIME, I JOINED
PROFESSOR X AND THE
X-MEN --"

"... BUT AFTER KILLING THIS
WORLD'S VERSION OF
PHOENIX, I WAS NO LONGER
WELCOME AMONG THEM."

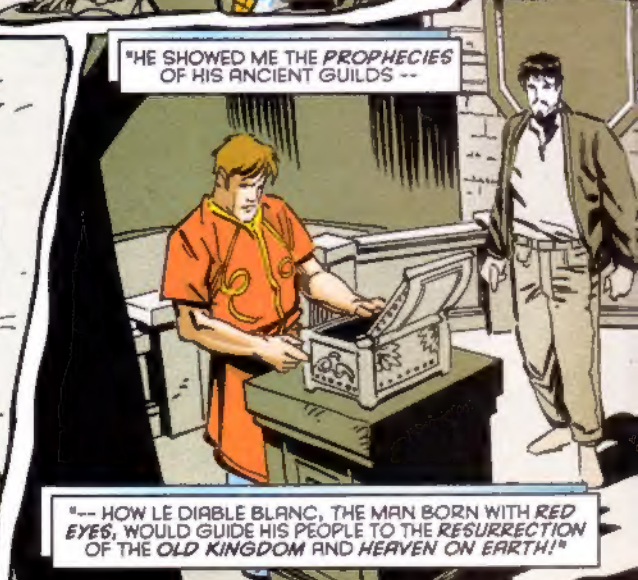
"AND SO, I WANDERED
MORE, SOMETIMES AS AN
ALLY OF THE SUPERHUMANS,
SOMETIMES AS A FOE --"

"... BUT ALWAYS
UNCOMFORTABLE
WITH MY ROLE
IN LIFE..."



"... UNTIL I WAS ABOUT EIGHTEEN
AND MET A MAN NAMED JEAN LUC
LEBEAU."

"ON YOUR WORLD, HE IS
YOUR ADOPTIVE FATHER,
ON MINE, HE WAS A
FRIEND -- A MENTOR."



"HE SHOWED ME THE PROPHECIES
OF HIS ANCIENT GUILDS --"

"-- HOW LE DIABLE BLANC, THE MAN BORN WITH RED
EYES, WOULD GUIDE HIS PEOPLE TO THE RESURRECTION
OF THE OLD KINGDOM AND HEAVEN ON EARTH!"

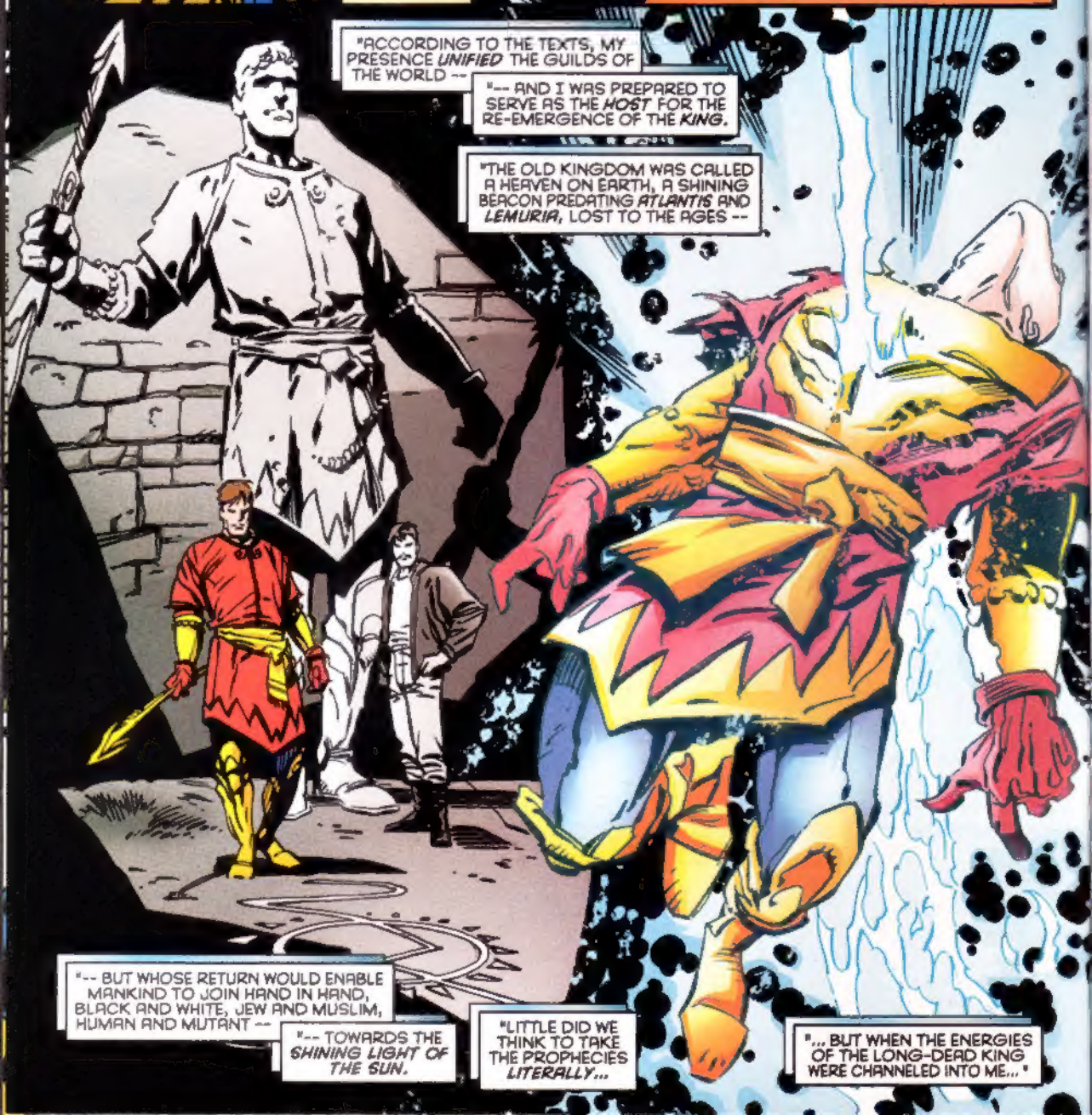


DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT QUITE WORKED OUT, N'EST-CE PAS?



NO... AND THE SADDEST PART OF ALL...

...IS THAT IT WORKED EXACTLY THE WAY THE PROPHECIES SAID IT WOULD!



"ACCORDING TO THE TEXTS, MY PRESENCE UNIFIED THE GUILDS OF THE WORLD --

"-- AND I WAS PREPARED TO SERVE AS THE HOST FOR THE RE-EMERGENCE OF THE KING.

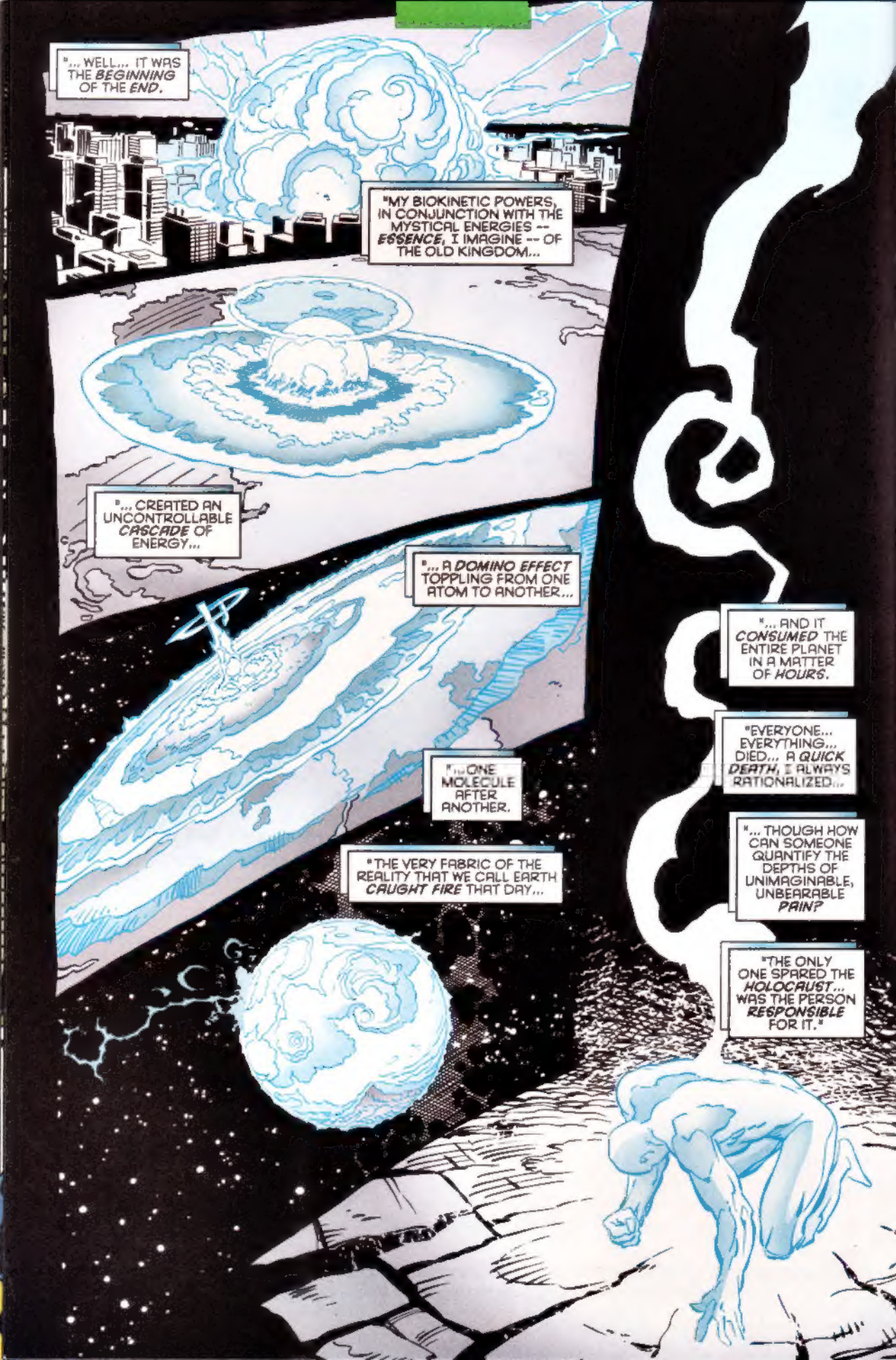
"THE OLD KINGDOM WAS CALLED A HEAVEN ON EARTH, A SHINING BEACON PREDATING ATLANTIS AND LEMURIA, LOST TO THE AGES --

"-- BUT WHOSE RETURN WOULD ENABLE MANKIND TO JOIN HAND IN HAND, BLACK AND WHITE, JEW AND MUSLIM, HUMAN AND MUTANT --

"-- TOWARDS THE SHINING LIGHT OF THE SUN.

"LITTLE DID WE THINK TO TAKE THE PROPHECIES LITERALLY...

"... BUT WHEN THE ENERGIES OF THE LONG-DEAD KING WERE CHANNELLED INTO ME..."



"... WELL... IT WAS
THE *BEGINNING*
OF THE *END*."

"MY BIOKINETIC POWERS,
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
MYSTICAL ENERGIES --
ESSENCE, I IMAGINE -- OF
THE OLD KINGDOM..."

"... CREATED AN
UNCONTROLLABLE
CASCADE OF
ENERGY..."

"... A *DOMINO EFFECT*
TOPPLING FROM ONE
ATOM TO ANOTHER..."

"... ONE
MOLECULE
AFTER
ANOTHER."

"THE VERY FABRIC OF THE
REALITY THAT WE CALL EARTH
CAUGHT FIRE THAT DAY..."

"... AND IT
CONSUMED THE
ENTIRE PLANET
IN A MATTER
OF *HOURS*."

"EVERYONE...
EVERYTHING...
DIED... A *QUICK*
DEATH, I ALWAYS
RATIONALIZED..."

"... THOUGH HOW
CAN SOMEONE
QUANTIFY THE
DEPTHS OF
UNIMAGINABLE,
UNBEARABLE
PAIN?"

"THE ONLY
ONE SPARED THE
HOLOCAUST...
WAS THE PERSON
RESPONSIBLE
FOR IT."



THE PROPHECIES
CAME TRUE.

"AND SO
SHALL COME THE
BURNING LIGHT OF
HEAVEN ON
EARTH."

A NEW
SUN.

IT MEANT
THE RESURRECTION
OF TH' OLD KINGDOM
MARKED A NEW
BEGINNING FOR THE
PLANET, BUT NOT
ITS PEOPLE.

"RAVAGED BY GRIEF
AND GUILT --

"-- I TRIED TO UNDO WHAT I HAD DONE --
TO REMAKE TIME, AND CONTROL THE FLOW
OF KINETIC ENERGY FROM THE STANDPOINT
OF TIME INSTEAD OF SPACE --"



-- WHAT I
PERCEIVED TO
BE THE ULTIMATE
EXPRESSION OF
MY -- OUR --
ABILITIES.



ONE THAT YOU TOUCHED --
IF BUT FOR A BRIEF
INSTANT -- IN 1891
WHEN MISTER
SINISTER --

-- SURGICALLY RESTORED THE
BIOLOGICAL CONTENTS OF YOUR
SECRET VIAL BACK INTO
YOUR BRAIN STEM --

-- RECONNECTING
THE ORIGINAL NODES IN YOUR
CEREBRUM THAT YOU HAD ASKED
REMOVED, SO AS TO SPARE
YOURSELF FROM THE POTENTIAL --

AGAIN IN
GAMBIT #14
-- MIKE



"-- OF EVERYTHING I HAVE
ENDURED IN REALITY.

"YOU BECAME AN
EXPRESSION OF THE
KINETIC FLOW OF
THE UNIVERSE -- OF
WHICH TIME IS
BUT ONE FACET."



I FAILED
IN MY ATTEMPT,
THE SCOPE BEING
TOO LARGE FOR
MY DESIRE.

BUT IN
MY PANICKED
ACTIONS, I SERVED
TO BREACH THE
SPIRAL --

-- THE SPACE
BETWEEN
MULTIVERSES --

-- AND UPON
SEEING AN INFINITE
OF POSSIBLE EARTHS
THAT COULD POTENTIALLY
FALL AS MINE HAD --

-- I DECIDED
TO GO ON A
WALKABOUT.

I SAW
MANY WORLDS,
MANY GAMBITS,
SOME REMY
LeBEAUS --

"... EVENTUALLY ARRIVING ON
A WORLD IN THE DEATH-THROES
OF AN AGE OF APOCALYPSE.

"I WATCHED
THE VALIANT
SACRIFICE THOSE
PEOPLE MADE TO
SPARE A
UNIVERSE...

"... AND I RODE THE
OMNIVERSAL WAVES
OF THE M'KRAAN
CRYSTAL'S EXPLOSION --

"YOUR EARTH, REMY. ONE
SCARRED BY MUCH
SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITY --

"-- BUT AS YET
SPARED THE SAME
TRAGIC MISTAKE
I HAD MADE."

"-- TO LAND ON
YET ONE MORE
WORLD.



ARRIVING
ON YOUR EARTH, I
DECIDED MY MISSION WOULD
BE TO SAVE *EVERY* EARTH
I COULD FROM MY
DOPPELGANGERS --

-- OR, AS
IN THE CASE OF
YOUR WORLD --
SAVE EARTH FROM
YOU!

YOU
ALREADY KNOW
THAT MY ORIGI NAL
PLANS TO PREPARE
A COUNTER-EARTH
AS A HAVEN FOR
YOUR WORLD'S
POPULATION --

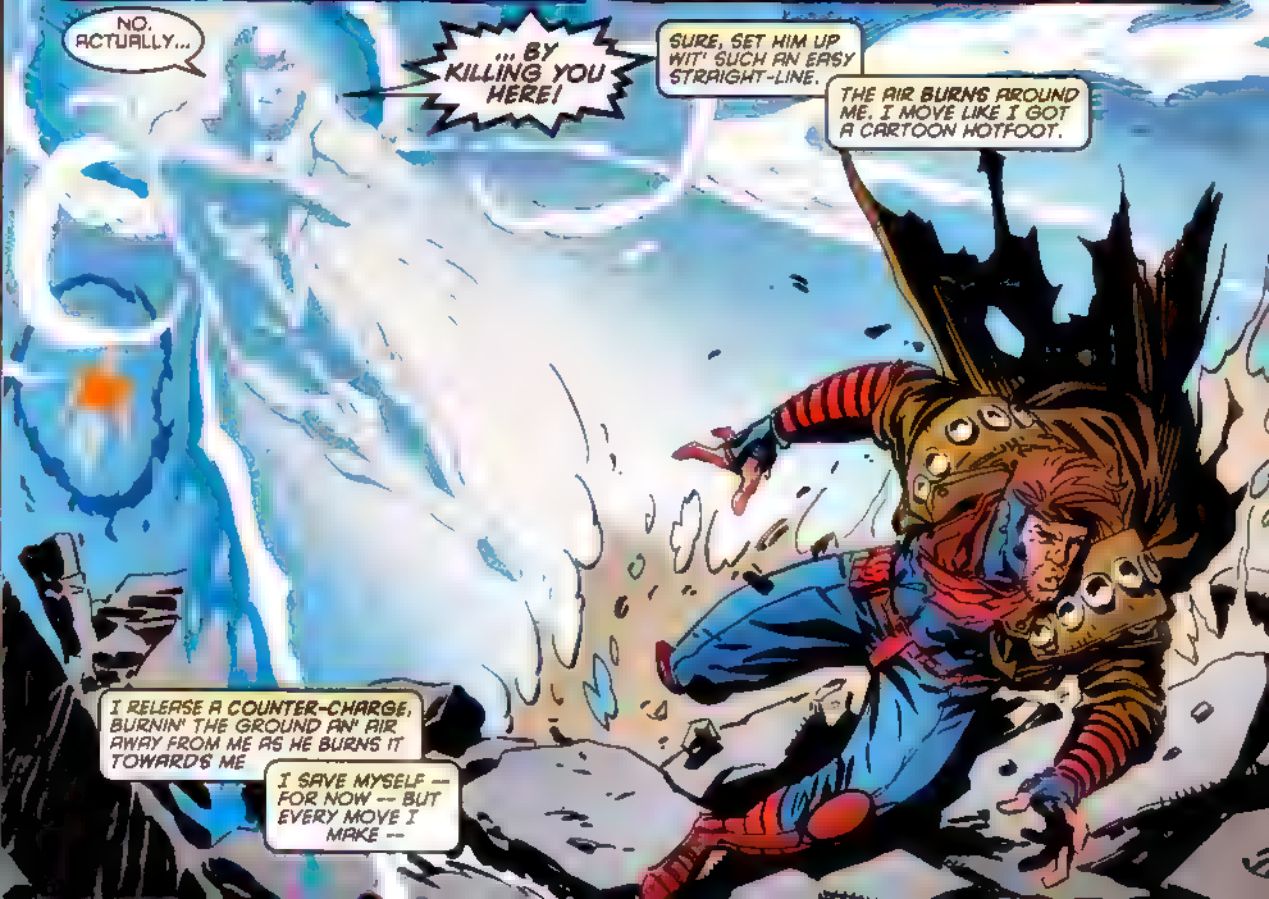
-- WERE
SCUTTLED WHEN
DR. DOOM
TRANSPORTED AN
ENTIRE PLANET IN
OPPOSITE ORBIT
TO EARTH. •



SO YOU
FIGURED IF
YOU COULDN'
SAVE EVERYONE
ON EARTH FROM
ME, YOU'D SAVE ME
FROM EVERYONE
ON EARTH?

FIRST BY
GETTIN' ME TO
UNDERSTAND
HOW T' USE MY
POWERS... AN'
NOW... HOW? BY
STRANDIN' ME
HERE?

• HEROES REBORN:
DOOM II -- A KE



NO,
ACTUALLY...

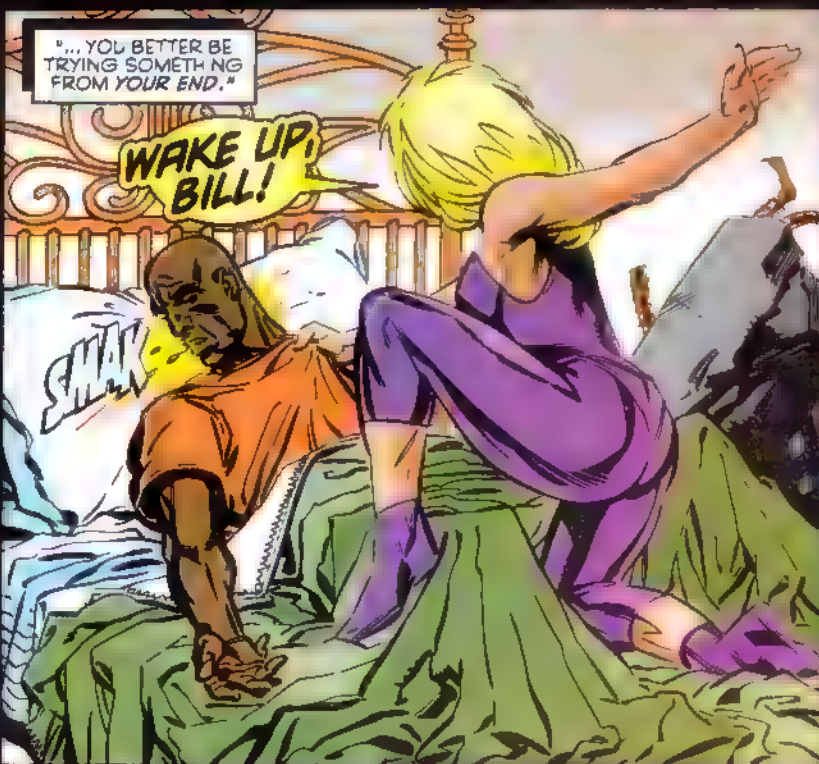
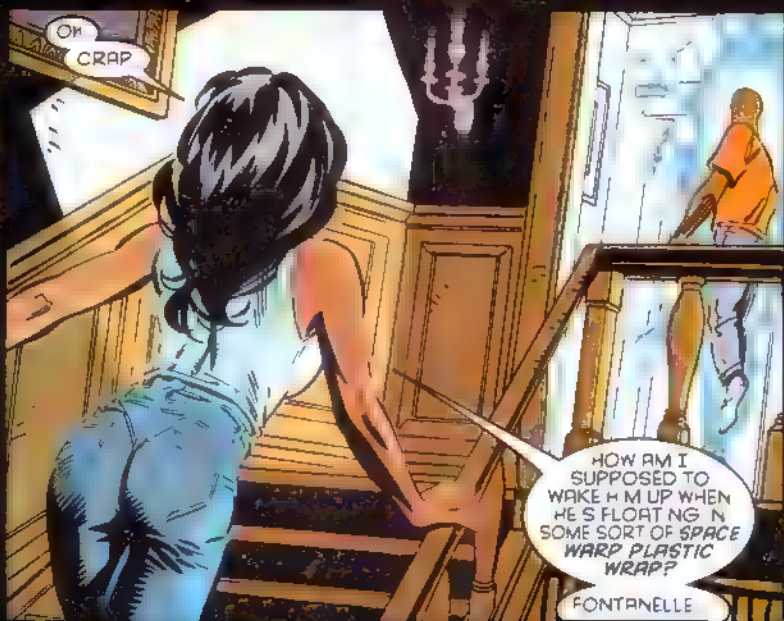
... BY
KILLING YOU
HERE!

SURE, SET HIM UP
WIT' SUCH AN EASY
STRAIGHT-LINE.

THE AIR BURNS AROUND
ME. I MOVE LIKE I GOT
A CARTOON HOTFOOT.

I RELEASE A COUNTER-CHARGE,
BURNIN' THE GROUND AN' AIR
AWAY FROM ME AS HE BURNS IT
TOWARDS ME

I SAVE MYSELF --
FOR NOW -- BUT
EVERY MOVE I
MAKE --





Ja-Oh

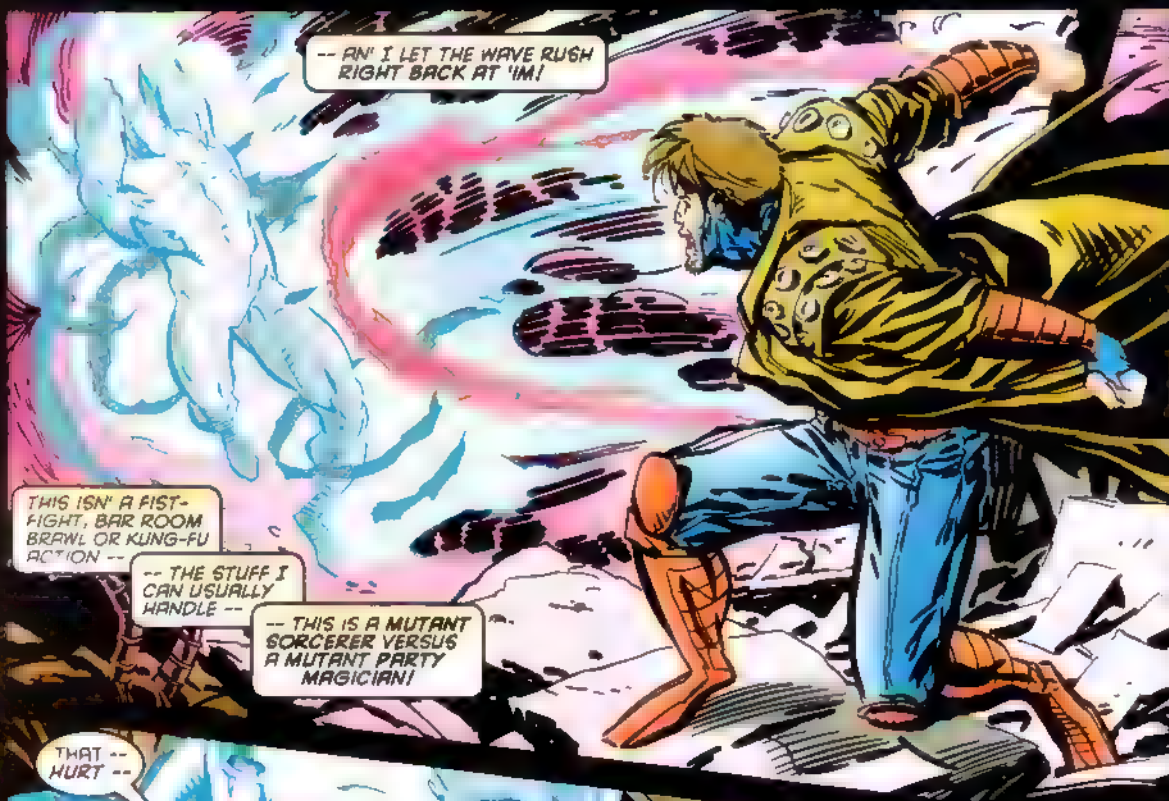
I'M GIZZLIN' HERE --
BUT NOT FROM ME.

I LOCK ON TO MY OWN
MOLECULAR STRUCTURE AND
SHUT DOWN TH' CHARGE

HURTS IN A WAY I
CAN'T DESCRIBE.



I LOCK ON TO HIS FLOW,
FEEL HIS SURGE THROUGH
THE BIOKINETIC FIELD --



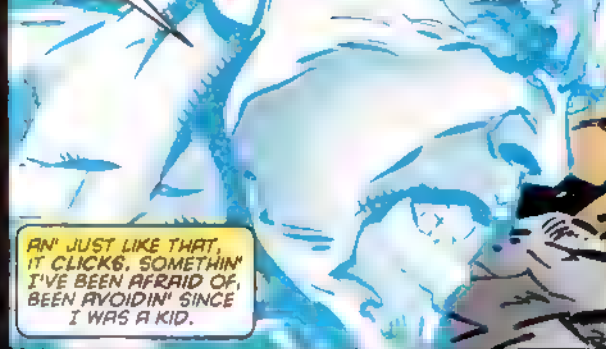
-- AN' I LET THE WAVE RUSH
RIGHT BACK AT 'IM!

THIS ISN' A FIST-
FIGHT, BAR ROOM
BRAWL OR KUNG-FU
ACTION --

-- THE STUFF I
CAN USUALLY
HANDLE --

-- THIS IS A MUTANT
SORCERER VERSUS
A MUTANT PARTY
MAGICIAN!

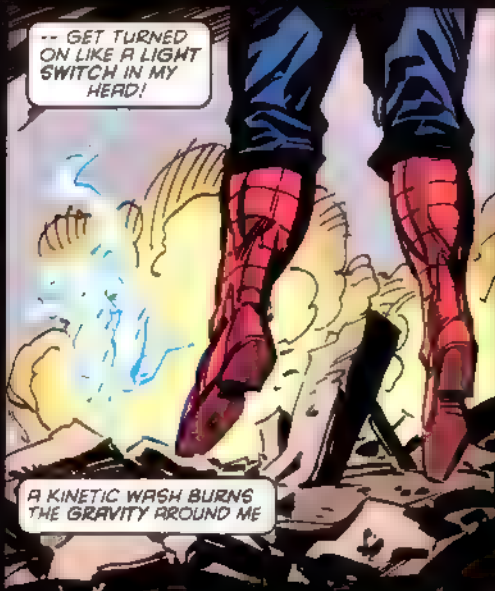
THAT --
HURT --



AN' JUST LIKE THAT,
IT CLICKS. SOMETHIN'
I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF,
BEEN AVOIDIN' SINCE
I WAS A KID.

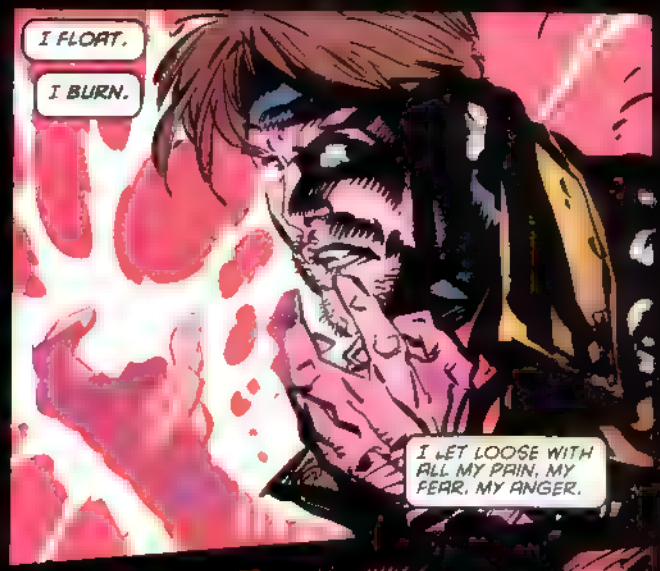
MY OWN
POWERS --





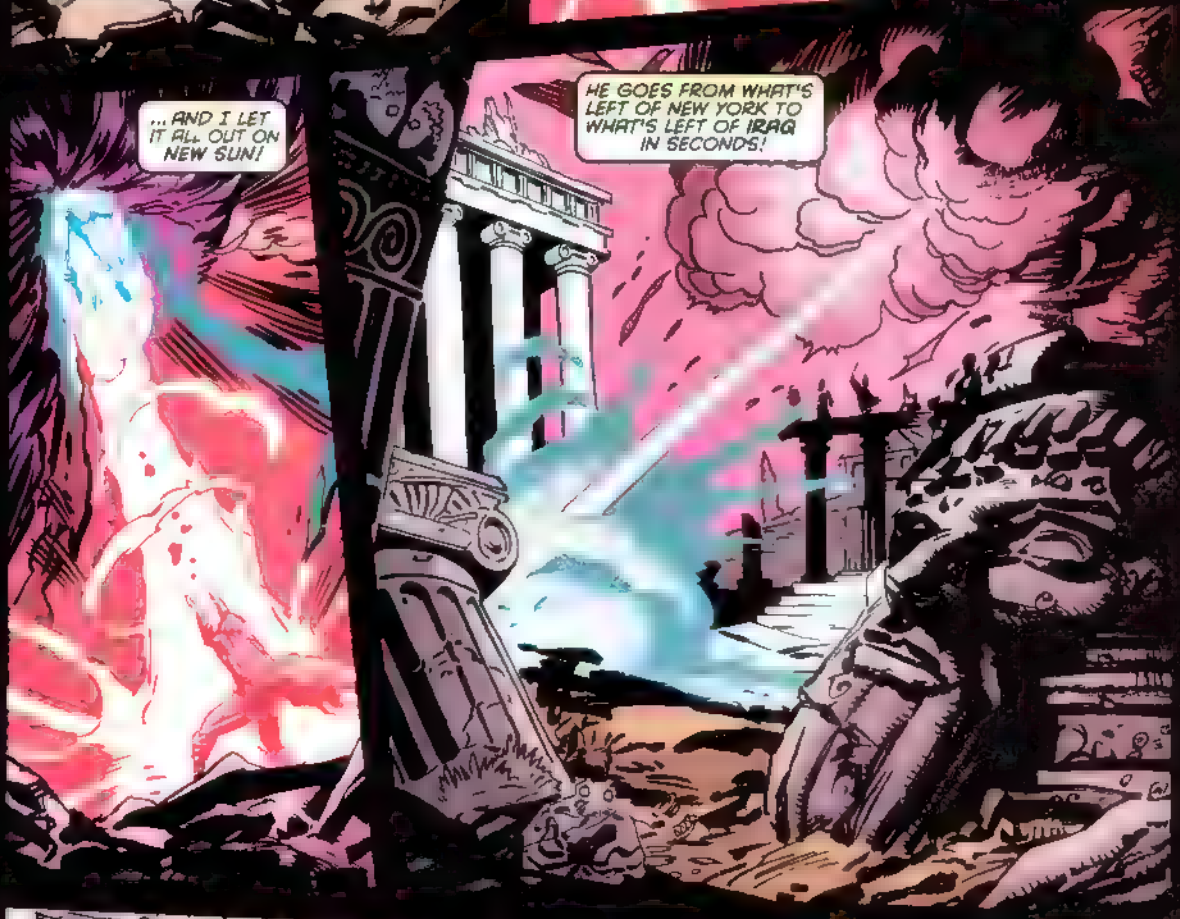
-- GET TURNED
ON LIKE A LIGHT
SWITCH IN MY
HEAD!

A KINETIC WASH BURNS
THE GRAVITY AROUND ME



I FLOAT.
I BURN.

I LET LOOSE WITH
ALL MY PAIN, MY
FEAR, MY ANGER.



...AND I LET
IT ALL OUT ON
NEW SUN!

HE GOES FROM WHAT'S
LEFT OF NEW YORK TO
WHAT'S LEFT OF IRAQ
IN SECONDS!



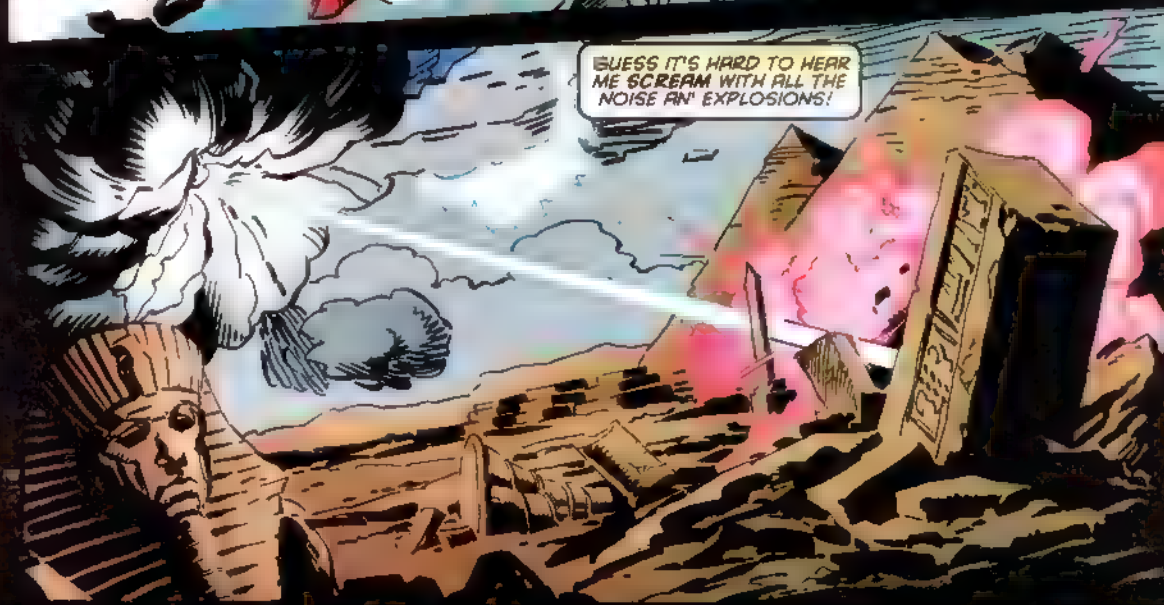
SON OF
A...



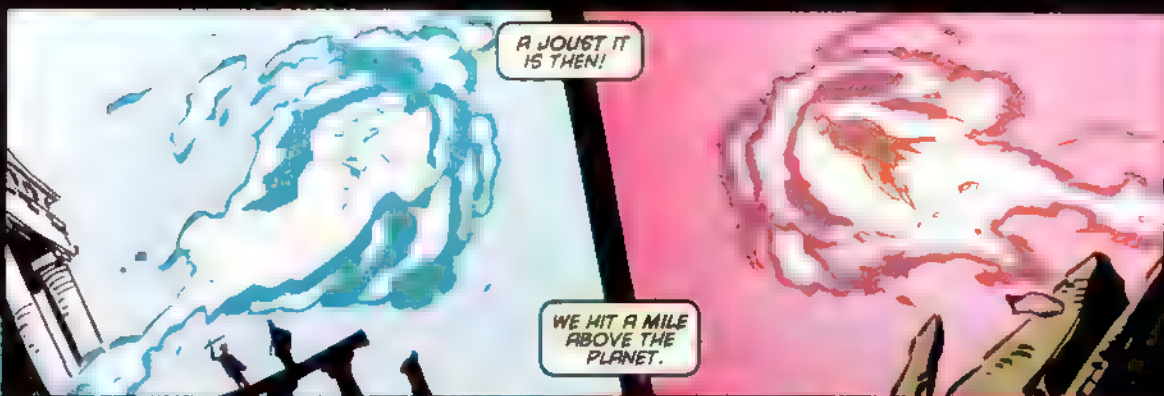
HUH --?

I FEEL INVISIBLE
HANDS GRAB HOLD
OF EVERY CELL IN
MY BODY --

-- AND YANK!

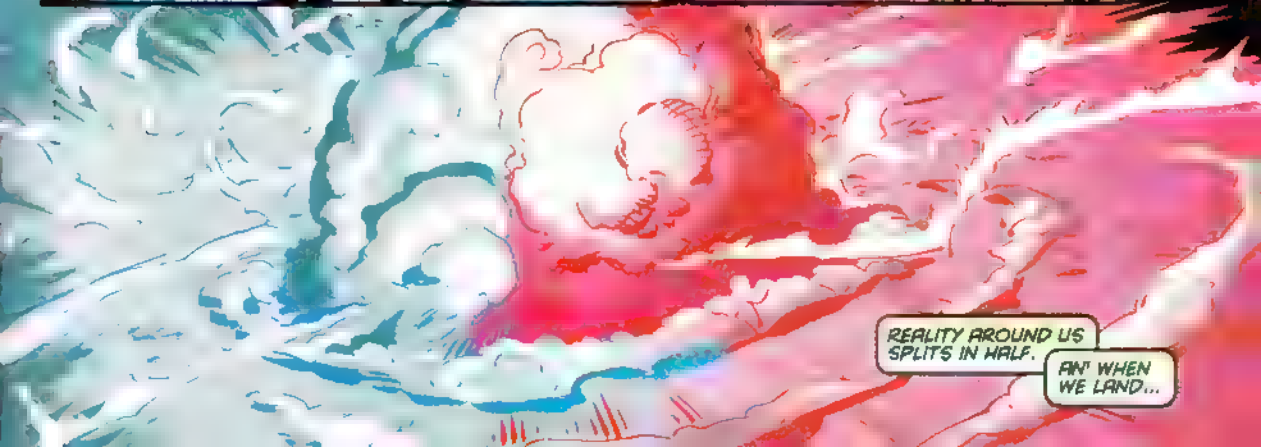


GUESS IT'S HARD TO HEAR
ME SCREAM WITH ALL THE
NOISE AN' EXPLOSIONS!



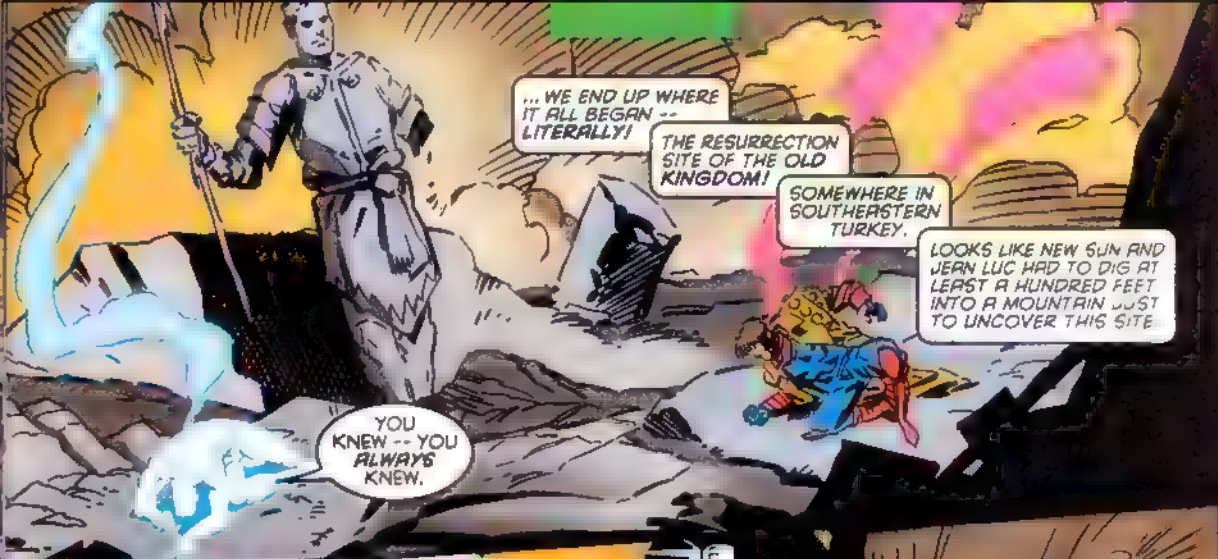
A JOUST IT
IS THEN!

WE HIT A MILE
ABOVE THE
PLANET.



REALITY AROUND US
SPLITS IN HALF.

AN' WHEN
WE LAND...



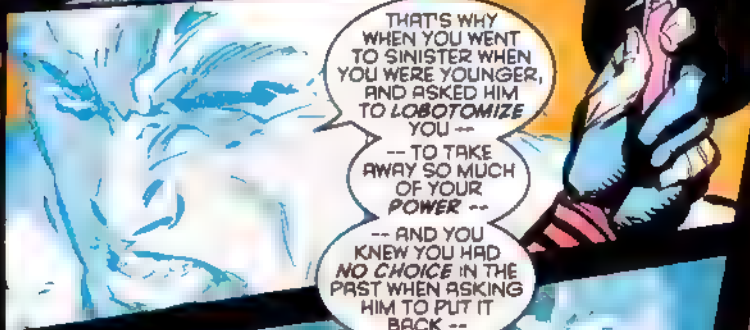
... WE END UP WHERE
IT ALL BEGAN --
LITERALLY!

THE RESURRECTION
SITE OF THE OLD
KINGDOM!

SOMEWHERE IN
SOUTHEASTERN
TURKEY.

LOOKS LIKE NEW SUN AND
JEAN LUC HAD TO DIG AT
LEAST A HUNDRED FEET
INTO A MOUNTAIN JUST
TO UNCOVER THIS SITE

YOU
KNEW -- YOU
ALWAYS
KNEW.



THAT'S WHY
WHEN YOU WENT
TO SINISTER WHEN
YOU WERE YOUNGER,
AND ASKED HIM
TO LOBOTOMIZE
YOU --

-- TO TAKE
AWAY SO MUCH
OF YOUR
POWER --

-- AND YOU
KNEW YOU HAD
NO CHOICE IN THE
PAST WHEN ASKING
HIM TO PUT IT
BACK --

-- YOU
KNEW HOW
POWERFUL
YOU WOULD
BE!



BUT IT
WON'T BE
ENOUGH!



I VE
TRAINED IN
THE FULL USE OF
MY POWERS SINCE
I WAS TWELVE
YEARS OLD!

YOU
CAN'T BE AS
POWERFUL
AS ME!



WHAT YOU
DON' SEEM... TO
UNDERSTAND...

BUT WHAT HE DOESN'
KNOW HOW TO DO --
IS CHERT!

... IS
THAT I
DON' WANT
TO BE!

HEREDITY VS.
ENVIRONMENT.

THERE BUT FOR
THE GRACE OF
GOD GO I.

NEW SUN WAS RAISED LIKE
A LAB RAT, LEARNIN' HOW
TO USE HIS POWERS
BEFORE HE EVEN HAD 'EM!

I WAS RAISED ON THE
STREETS OF NAWLINS,
LEARNIN' HOW TO
STEAL AN' LIE MY WAY
AROUND TH' WORLD.

HE KNOWS HOW TO
DO EVERYTHIN' WITH
HIS POWERS THAT I
AVOIDED.

FELT SOMETHIN' INSIDE MY
HEAD SCREAM AN' DIE.

LET EVERY ERG OF BIOKINETIC
ENERGY FLOOD OUT OF ME...

... AN' INTO HIM!

I RELEASED
ALL OF MY
NEWFOUND
POWERS.

WHAT --?
NO -- I
CAN'T --

I CAN'T
CONTAIN
THIS MUCH
POWER.

I
KNOW.

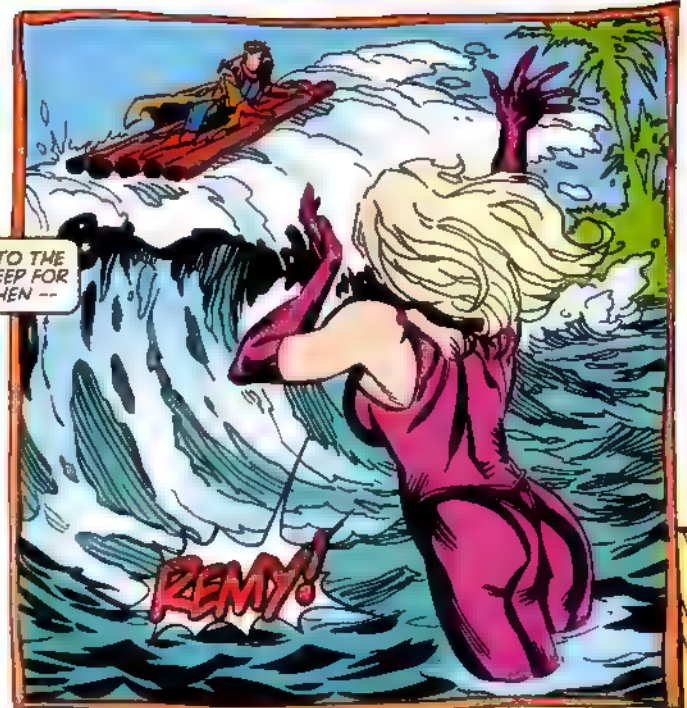


AN' THAT'S WHEN
I SORT OF...
FAINTED.

I KNOW, I KNOW,
NOT VERY HEROIC

SO, WHO EVER
SAID I WAS MUCH
OF A HERO?

I DRIFTED INTO THE
WORLD OF SLEEP FOR
A BIT, AND THEN --



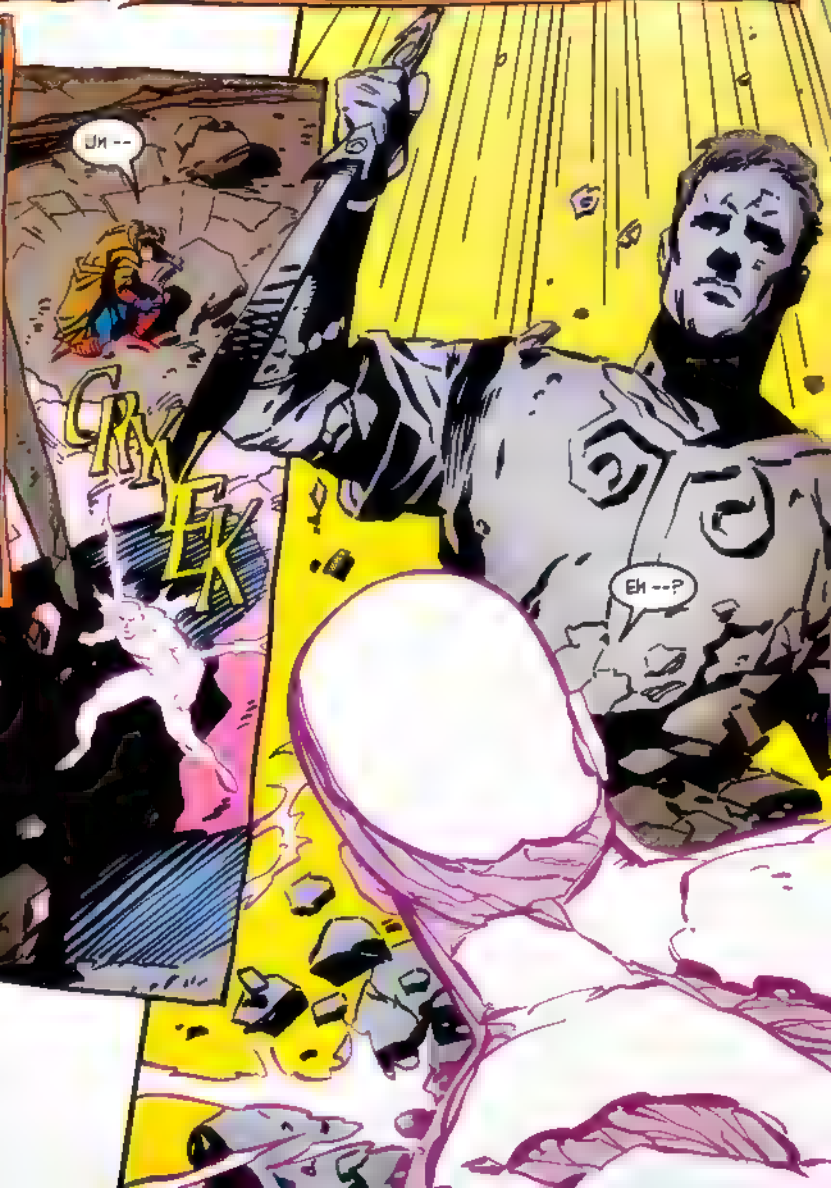
REMY!



FONTY?

ROLL
NOW!

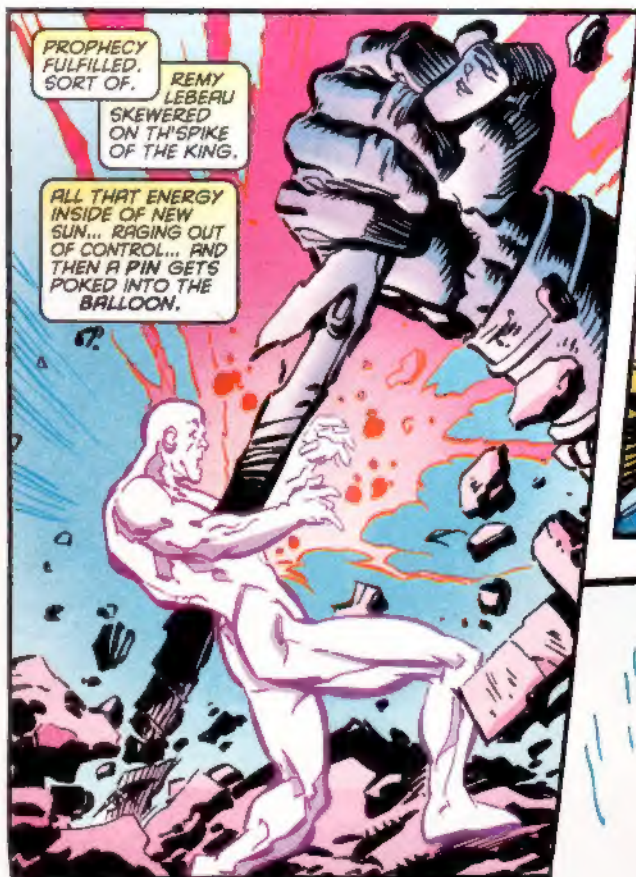
HUM --P



UM --

CRASH
EX

EH --P



PROPHECY
FULFILLED.
SORT OF.

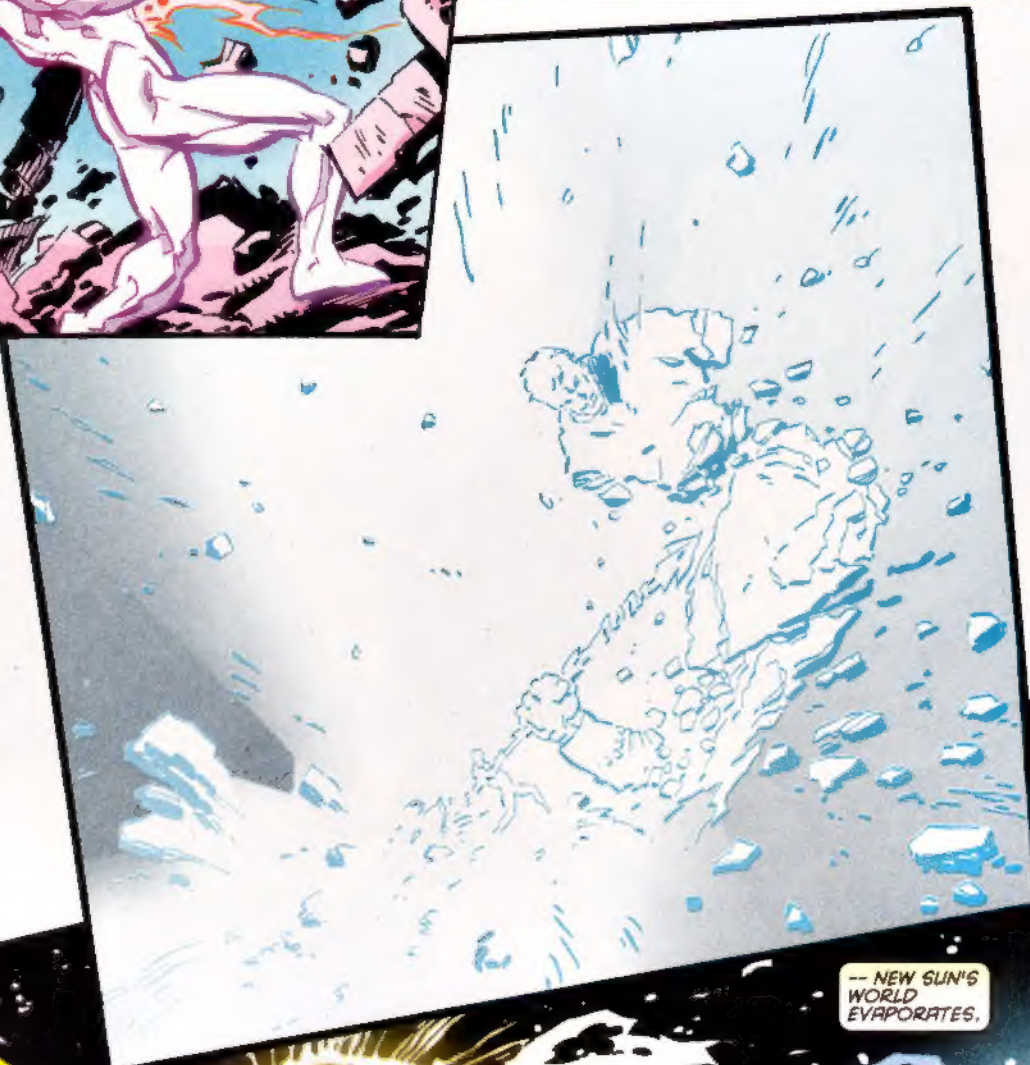
REMY
LEBEAU
SKEWERED
ON TH' SPIKE
OF THE KING.

ALL THAT ENERGY
INSIDE OF NEW
SUN... RAGING OUT
OF CONTROL... AND
THEN A PIN GETS
POKED INTO THE
BALLOON.



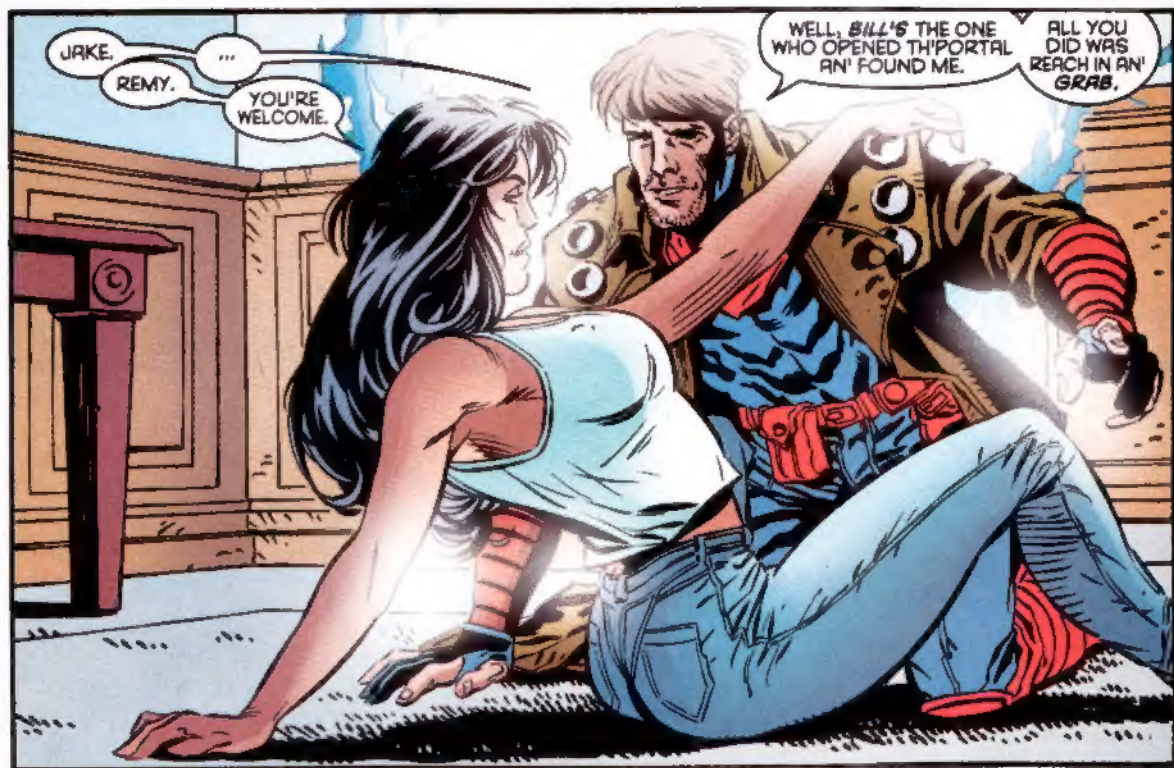
AN' JUST
AS IT POPS --

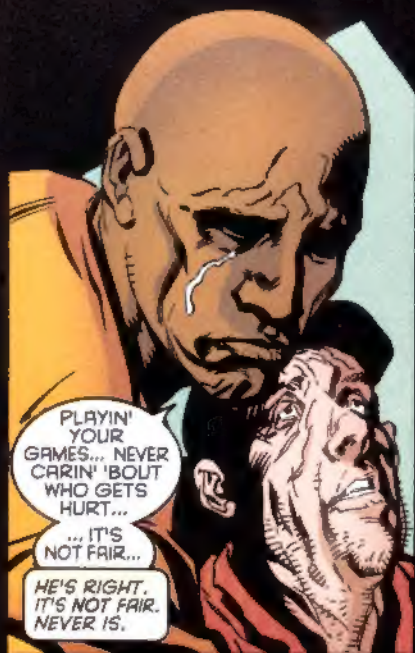
Hmm --?



-- NEW SUN'S
WORLD
EVAPORATES.







PLAYIN' YOUR GAMES... NEVER CARIN' 'BOUT WHO GETS HURT...
... IT'S NOT FAIR...
HE'S RIGHT. IT'S NOT FAIR. NEVER IS.



HOURS LATER, TH' GUILD TOOK HUEY AWAY TO WHERE WE BURY BODIES.

BILL WENT WIT' 'EM.

AN' MEP I FINALLY GOT TO CELEBRATE TH' WIN.

HOORAY.

CELEBRATION OVER.

JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH FONTY.



SHE SENDS HER BEST AND ASKS THAT YOU PLEASE NOT BOTHER CALLING HER FOR THE NEXT DECADE OR SO.

Mmm.

DID YOU REALLY BURN YOUR POWERS OUT?



YUP. BACK T'WHAT THEY WERE BEFORE.
NO BIGGIE.



BUT SCARY AS IT MAY HAVE BEEN TO YOU, PART OF IT MUST HAVE BEEN KIND OF... COOL, NO?

Nah. FORCES ME OFF BALANCE. I DON'T LIKE BEIN' OFF BALANCE.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE THEN, REMY?

Slice

